

A RESOLUTION relative to the erection of memorials honoring
Tennessee veterans at the various Welcome
Centers.

WHEREAS, the AMVETS Department of Tennessee has proposed the erection of an appropriate memorial to Tennessee veterans at each of the twelve (12) Welcome Centers on the various interstate highways entering the great state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, these memorials would demonstrate to Tennesseans and the many visitors to our great state the high estimation in which we hold our courageous veterans and their unselfish efforts to achieve peace and freedom throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the AMVETS Department of Tennessee has proposed that such memorials be approximately 2x6 feet in dimension and be carved of granite or Tennessee marble in the shape of Tennessee with an appropriate phraseology honoring our veterans; and

WHEREAS, the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, known as AMVETS, was originated in 1944 and chartered by an act of Congress on July 23, 1947; and

WHEREAS, for nearly fifty years, the members of AMVETS have helped veterans to help themselves, promoted the cause of world peace and dedicated themselves to preserving the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS is proud to count among its membership veterans from every wartime era, as well as guardsmen and reservists; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS Department of Tennessee was organized and chartered in 1972, and its Tennessee Service Foundation was organized and chartered in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee AMVETS, together with their auxiliary members, are active in community service work, child welfare projects, Americanism projects, and are very supportive of all four (4) VA hospitals in Tennessee, as well as schools with ROTC programs; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS is soliciting no funds from the state of Tennessee for the erection of such veterans memorials; rather, the AMVETS Department of Tennessee Service Foundation will solely fund the total costs involved in this praiseworthy project; and

WHEREAS, although AMVETS is willing to bear the complete financial burden of erecting veterans memorials, the initiation of such project shall acquire the approval and cooperation of both the Department of Tourist Development and the Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that this General Assembly should act to facilitate the realization of this worthy project by ensuring cooperation between AMVETS and state government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby endorses and supports the AMVETS Department of Tennessee's well-conceived proposal to erect appropriate memorials to our veterans at each of the twelve (12) Welcome Centers on the various interstate highways entering Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby urges and encourages the Department of Tourist Development and the Department of Transportation to approve the initiation of such project and to cooperate with AMVETS to facilitate its expeditious completion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Tourist Development and the Commissioner of Transportation.